

Message Text

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15

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

RSR-01 /099 W

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R 180830Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6238

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

CINCPAC HONOLULU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 9613

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, UK, US, XO, IN

SUBJ: JOURNALIST VISITS TO DIEGO GARCIA

REF: A) STATE 161009; B) NEW DELHI 7370

1. AS REPORTED IN REF B, THE DIEGO GARCIA ISSUE IS OF CONSIDERABLE CONCERN TO GOI, BUT AT PRESENT IT IS DORMANT AS A NEWS STORY IN INDIA (AND WE GATHER IN THE SUB-CONTINENT AS A WHOLE). WE WOULD LIKE TO AVOID PUTTING IT BACK ON THE FRONT PAGES HERE. MOREOVER, UNLESS THE VISIT IS DELAYED INTO NEXT YEAR IT WILL COME HARD UPON THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND THE UNGA SESSION WHERE SUCH ISSUES AS FOREIGN NAVAL FACILITIES ALWAYS ARISE. THERE IS ALSO CYNICISM HERE ABOUT PACKAGED TOURS OF US BASES (FACILITIES) FOR HAND-PICKED US JOURNALISTS IN AREAS WHERE US INTENTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO SUSPICION.

2. IF YOU WISH TO HAVE A TOUR OF JOURNALISTS, WHY NOT PROVIDE SOME ESCAPE VALVE BY INCLUDING SOME QUOTE NEUTRAL
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UNQUOTE NEWSMAN? IF NOT AN INDIAN NEWSMAN, PERHAP A

REPORTER FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY SUCH AS SINGAPORE, INDONESIA,
SRI LANKA OR KENYA COULD BE INCLUDED.

3. YOU SUGGEST A CASE-BY-CASE HANDLING OF JOURNALIST
VISITS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. IF THIS MEANS THAT YOU ARE
PLANNING A SERIES OF PRESS VISITS, THEN WE WILL HAVE A
SERIES OF PROBLEMS HERE. IF WE MUST EXPOSE DIEGO TO
THE PRESS, LET'S DO IT ONCE AND GET IT OVER WITH; AND
LET'S DO IT AT A TIME DESIGNED TO GIVE US THE LEAST
DIFFICULTY.

4. COULD YOU TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THIS WHOLE QUESTION?
THANKS.
MOYNIHAN

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NNN

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